

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No. 295620-214271; P03040US2A

APPLICANT(S) : Lanzarotta  
TITLE : Non-Staining Black Sidewall  
APPLICATION NO. : 10/567,986  
FILED : July 5, 2007  
EXAMINER : William Cheung  
ART UNIT : 1796

**DECLARATION OF JOSEPH M. LANZAROTTA UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.132**

I, Joseph Lanzarotta, of 3865 Wisewood St. N.W., Uniontown Ohio 44685, do hereby declare as follows:

1. I am one of the named inventors of the currently pending claims of U.S. Application Serial No. 10/567,986 and am currently employed by Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations, Materials Division, an affiliate of the assignee of the application.
2. I have a degree in Chemistry, and I have worked full-time as a research scientist in the field of polymers for over 30 years.
3. Those of ordinary skill in the art would not classify EPDM (ethylene propylene diene monomer rubber) as a thermoplastic rubber. Instead, EPDM would be classified as a thermoset polymer.

4. EPDM is a thermoset species rather than a thermoplastic species. Thermoset polymers cannot be reheated and recycled once they are cured. In contrast, thermoplastic polymers can be reheated and recycled even after curing.

5. The attached Exhibits further support these statements.

6. I declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of this application or any patent issuing thereon.

  
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Joseph M. Lanzarotta      Date 4/13/10  
Compound Development Specialist